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NOTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL UNDER ARTICLE 12, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

LAW OF THE SEA

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 27 August 1996 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to our letter dated 21 August 1996 and our note verbale dated 25 July 1996 transmitting the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the so-called "Act on the Marine Areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea", I have the pleasure to request you to circulate the above-mentioned note verbale as a document of the General Assembly, under items 7, 10, 39, 76 and 81.

(Signed) Gaafar M. ALLAGANY
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary

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ANNEX

Note verbale dated 25 July 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat.

The Mission refers to the law entitled "Act on the Marine Areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea", which was promulgated on 20 April 1993 and has been communicated to the United Nations Secretariat.

The Government of Saudi Arabia wishes to place on record that it objects to and does not recognize those provisions of the aforesaid Iranian Act on Marine Areas that purport to give the Islamic Republic of Iran powers and jurisdiction that violate or conflict with the consensus of international law and international practice with regard to the legal regime governing seas and straits used in international navigation.

Accordingly, Saudi Arabia declares that it does not recognize or acknowledge any jurisdiction, powers or practices that are assumed or exercised pursuant to the aforesaid Act on the Marine Areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran in such a way as to violate the provisions of international law and international practice and that it does not recognize any restrictions or impositions that may be placed on international navigation in the Gulf and in the Sea of Oman, including passage through the Strait of Hormuz, pursuant to the Iranian law in question.

The Government of Saudi Arabia affirms its legitimate rights vis-à-vis the application of those provisions of the Iranian law in question that are in conflict with or violate the international law of the sea and international practice.

The Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretariat of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.